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ADVERTISER FARM & HOME HOUR WRITER
PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS OK EPISODE #389
CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ BLUE
(11:30 - 12:30 NOON (JUNE 7, 1949 (FRIDAY)
TIME DATE DAY
PRODUCTION
ANNOUNCER
ENGINEER
REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: Forage produced by grass and shrubs under the trees and in openings of the forest is one of the major resources of our forest lands -- as important in many places as the trees themselves. The importance of forest forage for livestock production and the maintenance of big game animals is tremendous. And the value of forest vegetation for checking erosion and stabilizing streamflow has been demonstrated time and time again. Our American wildlife can thrive only so long as it has an adequate natural food supply. It was the destruction of natural habitat through use of more land for agriculture, through uncontrolled burning of the forests ... that largely reduced our big game. Now, in the National Forests, which harbor much of the country's remaining big game, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are working to provide suitable wildlife environment...and in the National Forests as a whole, wildlife populations are increasing steadily. There are certain problem areas, however, where heavy concentrations of game animals has over-taxed the capacity of the land to support them, and unless remedial action can be taken, wholesale starvation will result. The Forest Service is cooperating with the States to apply intelligent game management on all wildlife areas and to get the facts and information necessary for proper management plans.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER: (CONTINUED)

Out on the Pine Cone National Forest today, we find Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant Ranger Jerry Quick on a trip to the wild back country where they have a problem area on the range of the Martin Creek elk herd. They went to ear-tag some new-born elk calves in the hope of learning the migration habits of the herd. And riding the mountain trails with Jim and Jerry today is Sylvester Payne, who you remember raised quite a disturbance about the elk tagging last week, appearing before the Winding Creek Ladies Guild with a resolution condemning it. Jim offered to take him along to see how it worked, firsthand, and.....here they are, riding along the trail....

FADE IN SOUND OF STRING OF HORSES ON ROCKY TRAIL

FOCUS DOWN TO ONE HORSE

JIM: Whoa, Dolly.

SOUND OF HORSE STOPPING

JIM: (UP) GOOD place to stop here, Jerry, and give the horses a chance to blow.

SOUND OF STRING COMING UP

JERRY: (FADING IN) Whoa, Spark.

SOUND OF STRING COMING TO A RAGGED HALT

JERRY: We ought to start finding elk calves most anywhere around here, Jim. I noticed a couple of cows over across the creek back there.

JIM: Yeah I've picked out a couple along the way too...I think this is as good a place to tie up our pack horses as any. We'll take their packs off and leave 'em tied up here in the shade while we scout out the creek bottom.

JERRY: Pet's sake, now where's Sylvester Payne disappeared to again? He's the greatest guy to lag behind I've ever been out with.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Sylvester probably stopped to pick up another rock or a flower Jerry. Bringing a naturalist into this country is just like takin' a kid into a candy shop.

JERRY: Get over there Baldy. (SOUND OF HORSES MOVING) Whea now. (SOUND OF ROPES SCRAPPED ON CANVAS) I still don't think it was such a good idea to invite him to come along up here. If this ear-tagging business doesn't work out he'll go back and make a lot more trouble than he ever did by makin' that talk at the Ladies' Guild. He had the ladies all worked up, tellin' 'em that if we tagged the calves, it'd be just like killing 'em, 'cause their mothers would leave 'em.

JIM: Well, we can find out pretty quick if the cows abandon their calves, and if this tagging don't work out, we'll have to admit he was right.

JERRY: Yeah.

1. JIM: You've sort of changed your mind about the kind of a man
2. Sylvester is though, haven't you, Jerry?
3. JERRY: Well I got to admit he's not the greenhorn sissy I
4. thought he was, if that's what you mean. I'll admit he
5. know his way around in the woods.
6. SOUND OF HORSE BEING SLAPPED
7. JIM: Get over, Ringer. Get your foot off that rope....
8. Whoa now.
9. SOUND OF BOX DROPPING
10. JERRY: I got the other box, Jim.
11. JIM: O.K. -- Instead of gettin' lighter as we go along these
12. packs get heavier.
13. JERRY: No wonder --- with Payne fillin' 'em up with all
14. the fossils and rocks and stuff he picks up.
15. SOUND OF HORSE NICKERING OFF MIKE
16. JIM: That's Zipper gettin' lonesome for Dolly. Payne must
17. be coming along now.
18. JERRY: Yeah. I can see him. Just coming around the bend in
19. the trail.
20. SOUND OF HORSE NICKERING ON
21. JIM: Take it easy, Dolly. (SOUND OF HORSE MOVING) Whoa.
22. JERRY: You think Baldy and Ringer will be all right there where
23. I've got 'em tied, Jim?
24. JIM: Yeah, Jerry. That's fine. They can stand there in the
25. shade and fight flies to their heart's content.

1. SOUND OF HORSE APPROACHING AT FAST WALK

2. JERRY: (SOTTO) Take a look, Jim. With all that paraphernalia
3. strapped on him friend Payne would do justice to a
4. Chinese general.

5. JIM: (CHUCKLES) The way he handles old Zipper he might not
6. make a bad cavalry trooper at that. With all those
7. cans and cameras swingin' and clankin' around I've been
8. expectin' Zipper to do things ever since we left camp.

9. SOUND OF HORSE CLOSING UP

10. PAYNE: (SOFT-SPOKEN, MILD MANNER, MIDDLE AGE - FADING IN)
11. Whoa, Zipper. Whoa.

12. HORSE STOPS

13. JERRY: We thought we'd lost you, Mr. Payne.

14. PAYNE: Oh, I'll keep up... Say, this basin with the creek in
15. it, and the mountains and cliffs and all all-around ...
16. it's magnificent, Mr. Robbins. But the flora ... the
17. herbaceous plants and shrubs... the vegetation I mean...
18. it's a shambles. The willows down along the creek are
19. practically ruined. If this is a sample of the
20. national forest game range it's terrible.

21. JIM: I sort of figured you'd be impressed when you saw this
22. piece of country, Mr. Payne. It's a situation that's
23. got us worried bad. You might call it a big game slum section. You
24. see, this is exclusively game range. And the elk have multiplied so
25. much in here that they've just about eaten themselves out of food.

1. PAYNE: BUT why don't you do something about it? These animals
2. must be starving.

3. JIM: The elk in this particular herd ~~are~~ starving, Mr. Payne,
4. and over across the mountains up there we've got
5. another problem area just like this. Of course this is
6. one one area in several million acres. In most places
7. in the national forests there's a great plenty of
8. forage for the game and for domestic livestock as well.
9. But the situation here is that the elk have been left
10. unmolested in this isolated back country wilderness
11. and they've multiplied out of all proportion to the
12. amount of available forage. And now you've got nature
13. taking its course ... cutting down the herd by
14. starvation and disease...Nature is cruel, some times.
15. Solves things the hard way. We're trying to find a
16. better way, Mr. Payne.

17. JERRY: Maybe if the State Game Department would lengthen the
18. hunting season up in here and allow hunters to shoot
19. cows as well as bulls, it'd help.

20. JIM: Yep. We'll have to find some way to remove enough
21. animals so as to equal the annual increase.

22. PAYNE: But isn't there some way the animals can be fed or moved
23. to some other part of the range?
24.
25.

JIM: It's pretty hard to get feed into this country in the winter, Mr. Payne, and mighty expensive. Then too when you feed a herd of wild animals like this you get them even more bunched up than they are now and ticks and disease spread through the whole herd. And as to moving 'em ... well ... an elk or a deer can't be moved around like a sheep or a steer.....What we're up here for right now ... to tag some of these elk calves is so we can get a line on whether they migrate and what the migration routes are. We've got to know that if we're going to work intelligently.

PAYNE: Well, I still don't think this ear-tagging will work. The mother elk will leave their calves once they've been handled by man just as certainly as the calves will die when the mothers leave them.

JIM: If that's true, Mr. Payne, you'd be justified in raising a howl. That's why I invited you to come along, so you'll know first-hand.

PAYNE: You're being mighty fair about it. If I'm wrong, I'll be glad to admit it.

1. JIM: Well, we'll know pretty soon ... You see, the idea of
2. the ear-tagging, Mr. Payne, is to help us fill out
3. some of the blank spots in the elk's life history.
4. There's a lot of things we still don't know about these
5. animals....For one thing we want to know whether
6. these animals on the two sides of the Martin Creek
7. Divide are just one herd or two separate herds.
8. Another thing we want to know is how far the animals
9. travel from their place of birth and what range they
10. use in the fall as compared to that in the spring.
11. All these things have a lot to do with making up our
12. management plan ... and you can't make a plan until
13. you get the facts.

14. PAYNE: Do you think there's some calves somewhere close around
15. here?

16. JERRY: That creek bottom and open meadow ought to be a natural
17. place for them. What we figured on doing was to leave
18. the pack horses here and work out the bottom before
19. noon.

20. PAYNE: Wouldn't it be better to leave the saddle horses too
21. and look for the calves on foot?

22. JIM: No ... it's been our experience, Mr. Payne, that a man
23. specks the animals less on horseback than he does afoot.

24. PAYNE: Specks them?

25. JIM: (CHUCKLES) That's the term we use. What it means is
scare them.

1. JERRY: THESE calves are going to be mighty hard to find Jim.
2. What do you think'll be the best way to look for 'em?
3. JIM: I'd say to spread out and ride up the bottom abreast.
4. We'll just have to keep our eyes peeled and pick 'em
5. out as we go along.
6. PAYNE: And how do you propose to catch them ... with a lariat?
7. JIM: No. We won't need a rope. This is the calving period
8. up in her and if we find a calf, most likely he'll be
9. too young to do much running. They'll be easy to catch
10. and tag if we can find them.
11. JERRY: Okay. Let's go. Have you got your tags and ear punch,
12. Jim?
13. JIM: I'm all set. You go across and up the other side of
14. the creek, Jerry. I'll follow right up the middle
15. along the creek and we'll let Mr. Payne and Zipper take
16. this side.
17. PAYNE: And what do we do if we find one?
18. JERRY: Just holier and we'll all come down and catch him and tag
19. him before he can blat. Let's go Spark.
20. SOUND OF HORSE JUMPING AND STARTING AWAY.
21. JIM: Come on Dolly.
22. SOUND OF HORSES MOVING AWAY
23. MUSIC UP AND OUT
24. FADE IN SOUND OF HORSE MOVING THROUGH BRUSH BACK
25.

JERRY: (COMING ON) By George, Jim, I don't think there's any elk calves around. (SOUND OF HORSE PULLING UP) Whea Spark. (HORSE STOPS) Did you spot any coming up along the creek?

JIM: No. I didn't Jerry. Maybe we're a day or two early in this area.

JERRY: Where's Payne? Is he lost again?

JIM: No. I've been keeping him in sight. He's working his way down the sidehill toward us now.

JERRY: Oh yeah. I see him.....Look he's pullin' Zipper up like he'd found something.

PAYNE: (DISTANT CALL) Wahoooo.

JERRY: Come on, Jim, let's go. Payne must have a calf cornered.

SOUND OF HORSES BREAKING INTO HURRIED LOPE....HORSES SLOW DOWN, STOP

JERRY: (FADE IN EXCITED) Here you got on cornered, Mr. Payne?

PAYNE: Cornered? What cornered?

JERRY: A calf elk of course. What else did you call us up here for?

PAYNE: Look what I found around this mud hole here ... clay pellets. The elk are so hungry they've even been eating the clay.

JERRY: Oh for Pete's sake. Is that all you got us up here for?

PAYNE: Why yes, it's remarkable. Don't you think so?

1. JIM: That's not unusual around here, Payne. But the elk
2. don't eat the clay just to get something in their
3. bellies. They eat it because they're salt hungry.
4. PAYNE: I didn't know that. I must take some of these pellets
5. along.
6. JERRY: Now I know we're going to have to go back and get
7. another horse.
8. JIM: Say, you fellows, see that cow down there in the
9. willows? She acts like she's got something mighty
10. important around there.
11. PAYNE: She seems to be mighty nervous ... running back and
12. forth like that.
13. JERRY: Well, what are we waiting for? Come on, let's go down
14. there and see. Giddap Spark. (SOUND OF HORSE JUMPING)
15. Come on boy.
16. SOUND OF HORSES GOING DOWN HILL
17. JIM: (CALLING) Take it easy, Jerry. You're liable to run
18. right over it.
19. JERRY: Whoa boy.
20. SOUND OF HORSES CLOSING UP
21. JERRY: The old cow's staying right there, Jim. She's got a
22. calf in that patch of willows sure as you're born.
23. JIM: Well, don't frighten her any more than we have too,
24. Jerry.
25. PAYNE: There she goes. She's running away. If there's a calf
there and you touch it she won't come back.

1. JIM: We'll see...Let's hold up here. Whoa, Dolly.
2. PAYNE: Whoa, Zipper.
3. HORSES STOP
4. JIM: You hold the reins of our ponies, Payne, and Jerry and
5. I will scout out that brush and see what we can see.
6. PAYNE: (QUIETLY) There's no use to look in the brush. That cow
7. was trying to lead you astray. See, there's the calf
8. right out there in the open by that log.
9. JIM: Yes sir, by George.
10. PAYNE: I want to get a picture of this. Of you tagging the
11. calf.
12. JERRY: That's okay. You go ahead and do the tagging, Jim.
13. I'll hold the horses.
14. SOUND OF DISMOUNTING
15. PAYNE: I'm all ready as soon as you are, Mr. Robbins. I've
16. got my camera right here.
17. JERRY: Okay, Jim, let's see you catch him. Dollars to
18. doughnuts he gets plum away from you.
19. JIM: All right. Take it easy there, little fella. (SOUND
20. OF SOFT THUD AND BRIEF STRUGGLE) Ah-h. There now.
21. I'm not going to hurt you any more than a fly bitin' you
22. JERRY: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Hey, lookout, Jim! Here comes the
23. mother! She's comin' right at you!
24. JIM: Easy, little fellow....(SOUND OF PUNCH SNAPPING) There.
25. JERRY: Jim! Payne! Quick! Get on your horses! She's
charging us!

1. SOUND OF ELK CRASHING THROUGH BRUSH SLIGHTLY OFF MIKE

2. JIM: (COMING ON BREAETHLESS) Okay. Jerry. Whoa, Dolly.

3. JERRY: Payne! Hey Payne, come on! Climb in the saddle,
4. quick!

5. PAYNE: (QUIETLY) I've got to get this picture...she's....

6. JERRY: She'll run you down and cut you to pieces, Payne! For
7. the love of Pete, get on your horse!

8. JIM: No, look, Jerry. She's headin' for the calf.

9. ELK RUNNING STOPS ABRUPTLY

10. PAYNE: Look at that. Right back to her calf.....I got a fine
11. picture, I think.

12. JIM: Yep, look at her. Nuzzlin' her baby around like it
13. had never been touched.....Well, Mr. Payne. That's one
14. mother elk that didn't leave her calf when it was
15. tagged.....and you've got photographic proof of it.

16. MUSIC: FINALE

17. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday
18. on the National Broadcasting Company with the
19. cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

21. * * *

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24. ah:4:50

25. 6/8/40

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Published Weekly, except during the months of June and July, when it is published bi-weekly.

Subscription price, \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies, 15 cents.

Entered as Second-Class Matter, May 2, 1902, under Post Office No. 392, at Chicago, Ill., under special agreement of Post Office and General Delivery.

Postage paid at Chicago, Ill., and at additional mailing offices.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 1, 1918.

Published for the Association by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Printed at the Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.

Subscription orders, notices of change of address, and other communications should be sent to the Editor, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

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